

Meeting Minutes
Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group Meeting
February 10, 2022
2:00 p.m.

**Ark-Tex Council of Governments Office Building, 4808 Elizabeth Street, Texarkana, TX 75503 and Via
Zoom Webinar/Teleconference**

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) /Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Preston Ingram (William)	Agricultural interests	X
Andy Endsley	Counties	X
W. Greg Carter	Electric generating utilities	X
Laura-Ashley Overdyke	Environmental interests	X
Casey Johnson	Industries	
Dustin Henslee	Municipalities	X
Kirby Hollingsworth	Public	
R. Reeves Hayter	River authorities	X
Kelly Mitchell	Small business	
Joseph W. Weir III	Water districts	X
Susan Whitfield	Water utilities	X

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
James (Clay) Shipes	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Andrea Sanders	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Darrell Dean	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Tony Resendez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Trey Bahm	General Land Office	
Anita Machiavello (Morgan White - Alternate)	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Michelle Havelka	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	X
Darlene Prochaska	USACE, Fort Worth District	
Travis Wilsey	USACE, Tulsa District	
Randy Whiteman	RFPG 1 Liaison	
Richard Brontoli	Red River Valley Association	
Jason Dupree	TxDOT – Atlanta District	X
Dan Perry	TxDOT – Paris District	X

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **8**

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of **11: 6**

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Kathy McCollum - ATCOG

Paul Prange – ATCOG

Joshua McClure – Halff Associates Team

Jim Keith – Halff Associates Team

Parker Moore – Halff Associates Team

Kimberly Miller- Halff Associates Team

Sophia Kiec-Halff Associates Team

Ginny Connolly-Halff Associates Team

Tyler Ogle-Freese & Nichols

Chris Hartung - SRBA

Walt Sears – NETMWD

Paul Hensel – City of Hooks, TX

Lisa Mairs – USACE

James Bronikowski – TWDB

Reem Zoun-TWDB

Sanjay Negi-Texas A&M

**Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the Zoom meeting.

All meeting materials are available for the public at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Reeves Hayter called the meeting to order at 2:04p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome

Reeves Hayter welcomed members and attendees to the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress Flood Planning Group meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Confirmation of attendees / determination of a quorum

Reeves Hayter asked ATCOG staff member, Paul Prange, to conduct a roll call of attendees. Each present voting and non-voting member of the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG introduced themselves, establishing that a quorum had been met. Eight voting members were present and seven non-voting members were absent.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for public comments. No comments were given.

ACTION ITEMS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Consider approval of minutes for the meeting held Thursday, November 4, 2021.

***Additional Action Items Below**

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. Paul Prange announced that one error was listed in the minutes initially provided to the Region 2 board members, but had been revised prior to the meeting for review and approval. A motion was made by Greg Carter and was seconded by Reeves Hayter to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Discuss and Consider establishing a subcommittee to review Task 5 FMS/E/Ps and select for recommendation:

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion and stated that the tables listing FMS/E/Ps appeared to consist of approximately 7 or 8 pages. Mr. Hayter asked Josh McClure about the recommendation proposed at the January meeting, to appoint a subcommittee to review the information listed in the tables. Mr. McClure stated that the review of Task 5 by a subcommittee would be the best path forward. Jim Keith concurred and stated that several other regions are utilizing this method of review, as well. Mr. Hayter announced that he had considered several options for conducting the review and concluded that a 5 member technical advisory committee would be the best choice. Mr. Hayter asked the board for comments and Laura-Ashley Overdyke stated that this makes sense. Mr. Hayter then proposed that the technical advisory committee be comprised of Greg Carter, Dustin Henslee, Laura-Ashley Overdyke, Andy Endsley and Reeves Hayter. A motion was made by Joseph Weir and seconded by Susan Whitfield. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Texas Water Development Board Update:

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Anita Machiavello who announced that the technical memorandum submitted to TWDB in January is undergoing a second technical review by TWDB staff and informal comments will be provided to the Region 2 Flood Planning Group in late spring of 2022. Ms. Machiavello reminded the group that the final tech memo is still due on March 7, 2022 and an item is required on the March agenda for consideration and approval of Halff Associates to submit the tech memo to TWDB for review. Ms. Machiavello announced that Chris Brown is working with TWDB on a contract amendment and the TWDB will host another Chairs' conference call in March.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Region 1 Canadian-Upper Red Regional Flood Planning Group Updates:

Reeves Hayter asked for any updates relating to Region 1 flood planning activities. Randy Whiteman was not in attendance, so Mr. Hayter asked Josh McClure if he had any information and Josh stated that he did not have any updates to provide, at this time. Jim Keith also stated that he did not have any updates to provide to the Region 2 Flood Planning Group. Mr. McClure stated that he would try to gather some information and provide it to the Region 2 board members via email.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANT UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Technical Presentation by Halff Associates, Inc.

- a. Chapter 1 Summary and Discussion**
- b. Task 2**
 - 1. Requirements**
 - 2. Existing Conditions Flood Quilt Review**
 - 3. Take public comments on existing conditions flood quilt**
 - 4. Future Conditions Methodology**
- c. Task 5 Process**
 - 1. Establish Task 5 subcommittee to review FMS/E/Ps and select for recommendation**
- d. Tech Memo Addendum**
 - 1. Present Outline**
 - 2. Present Future Conditions Methodology**
- e. Schedule through August 1, 2022**

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Joshua McClure who provided a Status Update focusing on the Tech Memo Addendum, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 5, and the Schedule of Upcoming Deliverables. Mr. McClure stated that the Tech Memo was submitted to TWDB on January 7, 2022 and that it has been administratively approved. The Final Tech Memo is due to TWDB on March 7, 2022 and the TWDB provided a submittal checklist requiring two additional tables to be included. Mr. McClure asked Anita Machiavello if the checklist would likely be revised before March 7, 2022 and Ms. Machiavello stated that it would.

Joshua McClure conducted a presentation focusing on Chapter 1 and the comments provided by the Region 2 Flood Planning Group. Mr. McClure thanked everyone who submitted comments and stated that some were related to typographical errors and other comments indicated that the text in Chapter 1

did not seem to realistically describe Northeast Texas, as the board members see it. Rural areas appeared to be underemphasized and urban areas appeared to be overemphasized, along with a lack of data relating to certain agricultural losses. Mr. McClure stated that he concurred with the comments and asked if further discussion was necessary. Reeves Hayter asked if Halff Associates would incorporate the comments into Chapter 1 and provide a revised version to the Region 2 Board of Directors for review. Mr. McClure answered yes, that revisions would be made and resubmitted for review around April, 2022. Mr. McClure also stated that he is working with Preston Ingram to gather additional data relating to crop losses and mentioned that he located some FEMA data which may be used to predict future crop losses. Reeves Hayter stated that data related to crop losses due to flooding, is well hidden and difficult to obtain. Kimberly Miller stated that agriculture is a huge part of the economy in Region 2 and research has been ongoing to locate additional data. Ms. Miller asked if Hay production was the dominant crop within the region and Greg Carter stated that timber production is a very large crop, as well. Mr. Ingram mentioned that the primary row crops are corn, soybeans, wheat, milo, and cotton. He then explained the process that farmers use to report claims of crop losses, which doesn't differentiate between drought or flood conditions, and directed the technical consultants to FSA and USDA websites for additional information. Mr. McClure stated that the primary data set that is missing is the level of impact on crops caused by past flooding. Discussion took place between the Region 2 board members and the technical consultants. Mr. Hayter thanked everyone for participating in the discussion and stated that the flood planning group will have an opportunity to make additional recommendations later in the development of the plan.

Joshua McClure then presented information on Chapter 2 - Existing Conditions Flood Risk Analysis. Mr. McClure began discussing the Floodplain Quilt and Exposure Analysis by demonstrating how to access and navigate an interactive map to enter data. Chapter 2 focuses on merging all floodplain data together from FEMA NFHL (Approximate and Detailed), FEMA BLE, FAFDS and FATHOM data sources (Pluvial and Fluvial) to compile the Floodplain Quilt for Region 2. Mr. McClure pointed out that Delta, Camp, Franklin, Marion and Red River Counties had no existing floodplain data available, so the FATHOM data has been utilized to designate the approximate floodplains in these five counties. Reeves Hayter stated that the Zone A flood maps are not detailed enough to predict flood damage, but the Fathom data has been added to increase the level of accuracy. However, in doing so a tremendous amount of floodplain has been designated on the flood map, which may cause a great deal of public concern and confusion about whether or not certain properties are located within the floodplain. Mr. Hayter then asked Mr. McClure if the Fathom Pluvial data should even be included on the flood map. Mr. McClure stated that the map depicts flood data which is advisory in nature and not regulatory. Additionally, this data will indicate increased potential risk of flood damage within the region.

Joshua McClure then turned the presentation over to Parker Moore to present the Exposure Analysis. Mr. Moore began a slide presentation depicting the Floodplain Quilt which contains various data sources indicating the 100 Year and 500 Year flood risk area. The slides contained information focusing on Potentially Affected Populations, Structures, Critical Facilities, Agriculture, Roads, the Social Vulnerability Index, and Future Conditions. Discussion took place regarding Critical Facilities, Agricultural data, the Social Vulnerability Index, and Future Conditions. The SVI shows Region 2 at (.4) on average, and (.75) is typically where the TWDB considers an area to be more vulnerable. Mr. McClure defined the Future

Conditions as 30 years in advance, so the 500 Year floodplain will be utilized as the basis and a 22' increase in area will be added to the 500 Year floodplain boundary.

Parker Moore turned the meeting over to Jim Keith to present Chapter 5 – Recommendation of FMEs/FMPs/ and FMSs. Mr. Keith began discussing Tasks 4B and 5 to provide detailed information to the Technical Advisory Committee for their selection process. Mr. Keith stated that identifying flood problems in conjunction with a high SVI, will help determine the number of potential projects within Region 2. Mr. Keith then described the process for recommending FMEs and FMPs to the flood planning group, with the ultimate goal of reducing flood risk while demonstrating quantifiable flood risk reduction benefits. Currently, only 3 FMPs have been identified within Region 2, but the Technical Advisory Committee may be able to identify additional projects during two meetings scheduled for March 2022.

Joshua McClure then presented the Look-Ahead portion of his presentation and stated that Chapters 2 and 3, along with the Tech Memo will be completed in February. Final Tech Memo approval by the Region 2 Board of Directors and submittal of the Tech Memo to TWDB will occur in March, along with the submittal of Chapters 4 and 5. Discussion of Chapters 4 and 5 and submittal of Chapters 6 and 7 will occur in April. Discussion of Chapters 6 and 7 and submittal of Chapters 8 and 9 will occur in May. Discussion of Chapters 8 and 9 and submittal of Chapter 10 will occur in June. Discussion of Chapter 10 and approval of the Draft Regional Flood Plan will occur in July, with the Draft Plan due to TWDB on August 1, 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Update from Planning Group Sponsor

Reeves Hayter turned the floor over to Paul Prange who announced that ATCOG has hired a new Hazard Mitigation Planner who will assist in conducting flood planning outreach within Region 2 to increase public participation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

Reeves Hayter opened the floor for discussion. The Region 2 RFPG board members agreed to conduct the next meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 2:00p.m. at a location to be determined in the central part of the region and via webinar/teleconference.

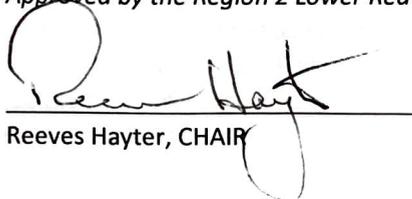
AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Adjourn

Reeves Hayter opened the floor to adjourn the meeting.

The vote to adjourn was passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14p.m. by Reeves Hayter.

Approved by the Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress RFPG at a meeting held on 03/03/2022.



Reeves Hayter, CHAIR